

Yellowstone

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Embracing a wonderland of hot springs, geysers, steam and gas vents, boiling pools, mud volcanoes, and canyons, Yellowstone National Park is the oldest unit in the National Park System. It was established on March 1, 1872, and now contains about 3,400 square miles in the northwest corner of Wyoming, overlapping into Montana on the north and west and Idaho on the west and south.

The central part of the park is essentially a broad, elevated, volcanic plateau, with an average elevation of about 8,000 feet. Surrounding it on the south, east, north, and northwest are mountain ranges, their highest peaks and ridges rising from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the general level of the tableland.

Its geysers are celebrated the world over; for size, power, and variety of action, as well as number, Yellowstone's geysers have no rivals. The more prominent geysers are confined to three basins lying near each other in the west-central part of the park, but other hot-water manifestations occur at more widely separated points. Marvelously colored hot springs and mud volcanoes are among other thermal features of Yellowstone.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

To most visitors, the four main subjects of interest at Yellowstone are the *thermal features*, the *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*, *Yellowstone Lake*, and the *wildlife*.

The major *thermal areas* can be reached easily by driving the Grand Loop Road. The largest concentration of thermal features is found between Old Faithful and Fountain Paint Pots. Other significant thermal features are found at Mammoth Hot Springs, Mud Volcano, West Thumb, and Norris Geyser Basin. Though most of the thermal features are beside the road, many of them require a short walk. For the back-country hiker, Shoshone Geyser Basin offers an opportunity to visit a thermal area free of manmade intrusions.

Thermal areas frequently contain thin crusts and pools of boiling water. Stay on boardwalks at all times and keep children and pets under physical restraint.

The spectacular *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone* and *Yellowstone Falls* at Canyon Village can be enjoyed either from the numerous viewpoints along the road or from the extensive trail system along the canyon rim.

Yellowstone Lake, a true window to the wilderness, provides one of the easiest means of access to the wilderness areas in the southeastern corner of the park. Private boats may be used or boats can be rented at various points along the lake.

In Yellowstone, a *wildlife* display unsurpassed in the United States is available if you have the time

to seek it out. Many of the wildlife forms are found throughout the park. Early mornings and late afternoons are best for observing wildlife. Rangers in the visitor centers can give you some helpful hints on where to look.

Yellowstone is a place where you must adjust your personal timetable to nature's performance. In good time, you will see things happening—an osprey alighting on a pinnacle-top nest, a bull moose emerging from forest shadow and wading into a marsh, a family of grizzlies searching for food in a wind-rippled prairie, or a cut-throat trout rising for insects.

Bears and other animals are dangerous. When observing wildlife, park safely and, in the case of bears, stay in your car with the windows closed. Do not get close to any animal—not only are you in danger but you will tend to drive them away. If camping, maintain a clean camp and keep food locked in the trunk of your car. Do not feed or molest any wild animals.

Wildlife photography is a popular visitor activity. All park animals however, are wild and dangerous. Avoid approaching them closely or getting between a mother and her young.

ENJOYING YOUR VISIT

Trails reach all parts of the park. Some require a degree of skill to travel because they are long and traverse rough terrain, but many are quite pleasant for a 1- or 2-hour walk or ½-day hike. A visit to the more remote sections of the park will be amply rewarded in the study of wild animals in their native habitats. Here nature remains undisturbed, scenic beauty is vividly expressed, and spots that appeal can be studied to your heart's content. Park rangers will be glad to suggest hikes in keeping with your interests.

Fishing in Yellowstone is for wild trout, and you don't need a license to fish in park waters. The fishing regulations are designed to preserve wild fish populations and maintain high quality angling. Enjoy fishing as part of your park experience.

At Yellowstone the varied interpretive programs will help you to greater knowledge and understanding of both the natural and the human history of the park. The program includes exhibits at the visitor centers, guided walks, campfire programs, and informal talks.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

The park season is from May 1 to October 31. Most concessioner accommodations are open from mid-June to Labor Day, with limited accommodations and services maintaining an

early and late season; because of the heavy demand during this period, reservations are usually required.

Campgrounds are open from approximately June 1 to September 15, with a few open earlier and later. They are operated on a first-come, first-served basis. Camping in summer is limited to 14 days. During July and August, the major campgrounds are usually filled to capacity by noon.

REGULATIONS

Collecting souvenirs, picking flowers, and acts of vandalism are prohibited.

Make sure your fire is out. Report all forest fires to the nearest park ranger.

Pets must be leashed and are not allowed on trails.

Motor vehicles and bicycles may be used on roads only.

Camping is permitted in designated campgrounds without permit, but a fire permit is required for camping in back-country areas.

A boating permit is required for all boats used on park waters.

Use or display of firearms is prohibited.

Maximum speed limit in the park is 45 miles per hour. Lower speeds are posted in many areas. Park roads become highly congested in summer. Exercise extreme care in passing. When stopping or parking, make sure that your car is completely off the roadway. Night driving is particularly hazardous because of free-ranging wildlife. Report all accidents to the nearest ranger as soon as possible.

Fishing regulations may be obtained at any ranger station or visitor center.

ADMINISTRATION

Yellowstone National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the natural, historical, and recreational heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

A superintendent, whose address is Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. 83020, is in immediate charge of the park.



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to ensure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States now and in the future.

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



YELLOWSTONE SIDELIGHTS

In addition to the more familiar attractions such as Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, the park contains many less famed but equally interesting features. The following hints may make your visit more complete:

Wildlife and their favorite haunts:

Pronghorn frequent the flats around the North Entrance Station, and the lowland areas between Mammoth and the Northeast Entrance.

Elk are generally found in meadows throughout the park. Check the large meadows south of Norris and the meadow areas between the West Entrance to Old Faithful. Elk are more commonly seen in spring and autumn than in summer.

Moose may be seen in the big willow thicket between Indian Creek Campground and Apollinaris Spring; Hayden Valley between Lake and Canyon; and Pelican Creek east of Fishing Bridge.

Bison are not commonly seen in summer. Explore Lower Geyser Basin in spring and autumn, and Lamar Valley in spring.

Bighorn sightings are common on Mount Washburn.

Birds. Watch for osprey in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and for trumpeter swan, osprey, pelicans, eagles, ducks, and geese in Hayden Valley.

Interesting thermal areas:

The most concentrated area where geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and fumaroles can be seen is the Fountain Paint Pots halfway between Madison Junction and Old Faithful.

Looking for beautifully colored mud pots? Try the Artist Paint Pots on a short trail at the south end of Gibbon Meadows south of Norris.

For a good spot from which to obtain an excellent photograph of Grand Prismatic Spring, the largest hot spring in the park, hike up the small bluff on the opposite side of the road at Midway Geyser Basin.

Black Sand Basin in the Old Faithful area is a choice location for highly colored pools and runoff channels.

Visit West Thumb for deep, blue pools.

After you have seen Old Faithful, check at the visitor center for a prediction on when other large, spectacular geysers in the vicinity will erupt.

Mud Volcano area between Lake and Canyon contains excellent examples of violently churning, highly fluid mud springs.

Water wonderland:

For the waterfalls enthusiast, Yellowstone is a paradise. In addition to the Upper and Lower Falls at Canyon, numerous other falls are to be found along the roadways, including Rustic Falls just south of Mammoth; Gibbon Falls between Norris and Madison Junction; Kepler Cascades about 2 miles south of Old Faithful; Virginia Cascades between Norris and Canyon; and Tower Falls just south of Tower Junction.

Short hikes lead to Mystic and Fairy Falls in the Old Faithful area. The seasoned hiker will find the falls in the Bechler area among the park's most beautiful.

Out-of-the-way places:

If you like to get off the beaten path, try the Bunsen Peak Road or the old Mammoth-Tower Road. For outstanding mountain scenery, take a trip to the top of Mount Washburn.

	Mammoth	Madison Junction	Old Faithful	West Thumb	Grant Village	Bridge Bay	Fishing Lake	Tower Canyon	Roosevelt
Hotel	x			x				x	
Cabin (economy family-regular)	x			x				x	x x x
Overnight shelter					x			x	
Amphitheater	x	x	x		x	x		x	x x
Auto repair	x		x					x	x
Boat rental					x	x	x		
Eating facility	x		x	x				x	x x x
Gas station	x		x	x				x	x x x
Grocery and curio store	x		x	x				x	x x x
Horse rental	x		x						x x
Ice	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Laundromat			x	x ¹				x	x
Medical (hospital-clinic) Nurse on duty	x			x	x			x	
Photo shop	x		x	x				x	x x x
Post office	x		x	x				x	x
Propane service			x					x	
Rent a car	x		x					x	
Sewage dump station			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Shower	x		x	x				x	x x x
Stagecoach ride									x
Telegraph	x			x				x	x
Tour bus	x			x				x	x
Trailer park with utilities (fee)									x
Visitor center	x	x		x	x			x	x

¹Laundrette at West Thumb not self service



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